

UFO POTPOURRI

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No. 420

October 1998

THE BROOKINGS INSTITUTION REPORT

On November 30, 1960, the Brookings Institution submitted a report to the NASA Committee on Long-Range Studies entitled "Proposed Studies on the Implications of Peaceful Space Activities for Human Affairs.

In his report transmittal letter, Brookings President Robert D. Calkins states: "The report recommends for the consideration of NASA a wide range of studies regarding the social, economic, political, legal, and international implications of the use of space for peaceful and scientific purposes." Further, it states: "The agreed-upon multiple objectives of the report would be well served if it generates research activities within as well as outside of NASA in accordance with the interests of those in the academic community, private research organizations, industry, and other Government agencies. Therefore, some material is included which, while familiar to NASA, is felt to be necessary background for those who have not been close to some of the problems discussed."

The report was submitted to the U.S. House of Representatives of the 87th Congress in House Report No. 242. On April 18, 1961, it was committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

Some very interesting statements were contained in the section of the report entitled: THE IMPLICATIONS OF A DISCOVERY OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE. Those statements are listed below.

Report page 215, Artifacts: "The recent publicity given to efforts to detect extraterrestrial messages via radio telescope has popularized -- and legitimized -- speculations about the impact of such a discovery on human values. It is conceivable that there is semi-intelligent life in some part of our solar system or highly intelligent life which is not technologically oriented, and many cosmologists and astronomers think it very likely that there is intelligent life in many other solar systems. While face-to-face meetings with it will not occur within the next 20 years (unless its technology is more advanced than ours, qualifying it to visit Earth), artifacts left at some point in time by these life forms might possibly be discovered through our space activities on the Moon, Mars, or Venus. If there is any contact to be made during the next 20 years it would most likely be by radio -- which would indicate that these beings had at least equaled our own technological level."

Report Page 215, Unity of Man: "The knowledge that life existed in other parts of the universe might lead to greater unity of men on Earth, based on the "oneness" of man or on the age-old assumption that any stranger is threatening."

Report Page 215, Society Disintegration: "Whether earthmen would be inspired to all-out space efforts by such a discovery is a moot question. Anthropological files contain many examples of societies, sure of their place in the universe, which have disintegrated when they had to associate with previously unfamiliar societies espousing different ideas and different life ways; others that survived such an experience usually did so by paying the price of changes in values and attitudes and behavior."

Report Page 216, Withholding Information: "How might such information, under what circumstances, be presented to or withheld from the public for what ends. What might be the role of the discovering scientists and other decision makers regarding release of the fact of discovery?"

Report Page 225, Religionists: "The Fundamentalist (and anti-science) sects are growing around the world and, as missionary enterprises, may have schools and a good deal of literature attached to them. One of the important things is that, where they are active, they appeal to the illiterate and semiliterate (including, as missions, the preachers as well as the congregation) and can pile up a very influential following in terms of numbers. For them, the discovery of other life -- rather than any other space product -- would be electrifying."

Report Page 225: Devastating to Scientists and Engineers: "It is speculated that, of all groups, scientists and engineers might be the most devastated by the discovery of relatively superior creatures, since these professions are most clearly associated with the mastery of nature, rather than with the understanding and expression of man. Advanced understanding of nature might vitiate all our theories at the very least, if not also require a culture and perhaps a brain inaccessible to earth scientists."

Report Page 226, Avoiding the Question: "It is perhaps interesting to note that when asked what the consequences of the discovery of superior life would be, an audience of *Saturday Review* readership chose, for the most part, not to answer the question at all, in spite of their detailed answers to many other speculative questions. Perhaps the idea is so foreign that even this readership was bemused by it. But one can speculate, too, that the idea of intellectually superior creatures may be anxiety-provoking. Nor is it clear what would be the reactions to creatures of approximately equal and communicable intelligence to ours."

Credit for the revival of the Brookings Institution material goes to MUFON's Robert Bletchman.

Evening Standard - London
(Circ: 454,016)

The Times - London
(Circ: 805,602)

The Daily Telegraph - London
(Circ: 1,096,583)

29 JUN 1998

UFOs: There IS something odd going on say US scientists

by SUE MASTERMAN

CONSPIRACY theorists of the world unite — this could be the day you've been waiting for.

A panel of nine US scientists has concluded that UFOs are not a mere figment of the imagination and want to see some serious investigation into whether or not they exist.

Stanford physicist and panel director Peter Sturrock has told US television they have found "compelling physical evidence" that something is going on which we do not understand.

Fuelled by Rockefeller money, the panel has been meeting for a year and studied the physical evidence — photographs, radar data and soil damage near alleged UFO landing sites.

Some of the apparent evidence, they say, originated in unusual natural phenomena. Some of it was due to military activities. But there remains a big grey area with enough evidence to warrant a serious scientific study — the first independent venture since 1966, when the US Air Force dismissed UFOs.

But the panel's report has some bad news for UFO buffs. The scientists do not necessarily see any "extraterrestrial intelligence" behind the phenomena. UFOs, they say, are exactly that — unidentified flying objects — and any more precise identification still belongs in the realm of the imagination.

30 JUN 1998

Scientists agree to open X-files on UFO data

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

UNIDENTIFIED flying objects are worth studying in the hope of learning something new, a scientific panel in America has concluded.

They are not evidence of life elsewhere in space, nor do they disprove any known physical laws. But some are accompanied by compelling physical evidence that merits greater investigation.

The nine-member panel, organised by Peter Sturrock, of Stanford University, and backed by the philanthropist and businessman Laurence Rockefeller, asked eight UFO investigators to present the strongest data they had for the existence of UFOs. The panel's report was published yesterday in the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*.

"If there is an interest in trying to get serious answers to the UFO problem, it would be sensible for scientists to focus on the physical evidence as opposed to witness testimony," Professor Sturrock said.

Such evidence includes photographs, radar reflections, traces left on the ground or in vegetation, physiological effects on witnesses and debris. Some could be explained by rare natural phenomena

such as electrical activity above thunderstorms, or "radar ducting" — the trapping of radar waves by atmospheric channels. But others defied such explanation, the panel said.

Further examination of the same evidence is unlikely to provide any fresh light. Most UFO investigations lack the rigour required by the scientific community. But new data, scientifically acquired and analysed, could yield better explanations.

The new report differs from the most comprehensive yet carried out, by Edward Condon in 1968. He concluded that further UFO investigation was a waste of time. The Sturrock panel, by contrast, says that further work would be useful, and should be carried out.

Graham Birdsall, editor of *UFO Magazine*, said yesterday: "It is clearly very encouraging from our standpoint that any group of scientists is prepared to give up time and energy to study the whole UFO question. The fact that they acknowledge there are phenomena worthy of study is something we have been arguing for years."

Scientists 'must look into UFO sightings'

By Robert Uhlig
Technology Correspondent

UNEXPLAINED and "compelling physical evidence" that accompanied several supposed UFO sightings deserves scientific investigation, according to an international panel of scientists.

The first independent scientific review for 30 years, published yesterday, said a study of unresolved events, such as burns to witnesses, and unexplained radar detection of flying objects, might help to debunk some claims of UFO sightings.

The panel of nine American, British, French and German scientists said the claimed sightings provided no evidence of extra-terrestrial intelligence nor any violation of natural laws. The scientists called for careful evaluation of UFO reports.

The head of the study, Peter Sturrock, professor of space science at Stanford University, said scientists should overcome the "giggle factor" that normally accompanies a study of UFOs.

He hoped that they would "read the report and become curious". He added: "The challenge is to do good science on this."